

dedicated, faithful, and outstanding service to his country and to the Senate.

HONORING THE HILLTOPPERS OF WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 16 submitted earlier by Senator BUNNING and myself.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 16) honoring the Hilltoppers of Western Kentucky University from Bowling Green, Kentucky, for winning the 2002 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I-AA Football Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and congratulate the players and coaches of the Western Kentucky University Hilltopper football team on winning the 2002 NCAA Division I-AA National Championship.

When people take a look back at Western's championship season, they will certainly wonder how in the world a team which lost three of its first five games wound up winning the national title? The answer lies in the hearts and minds of every single member of Western Kentucky's team, from the coaches to freshmen walk-ons. Not only did this team refuse to give up, they made it their mission to work harder on and off the field to achieve their dreams and goals. Head Coach Jack Harbaugh deserves special recognition for his ability to right Western's ship before it veered too far off course.

Having to go on a six game win streak simply to reach the post-season, Western entered the Division I-AA playoffs as a longshot. To even reach the championship game, Western had to beat the number two and three rated teams in the nation. Once in the title game, Western was simply too strong to be stopped. They beat the number one rated McNeese State Cowboys by a score of 34-14, exacting revenge on the team which had beat them early in the season. Quarterback Jason Michael threw for a career-high 185 yards and running back Jon Frazier added 159 yards on the ground in the national title match. This was Western Kentucky University's first NCAA football championship.

Mr. President, I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in congratulating the Hilltopper football players, Head Coach Jack Harbaugh, Athletic Director Dr. Wood Selig and Dr. Gary Ransdell on winning the 2002 Division I-AA National Championship. This win reflects very highly on Western Kentucky University and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky. Who said Kentucky wasn't a football State?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleague, Mr.

Bunning, for introducing this resolution congratulating the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers on capturing the National Collegiate Athletics Association's NCAA Division I-AA championship, and I would urge the Senate to adopt it.

Mr. President, the story of Western Kentucky University's 2002 football season is one of perseverance and determination in the face of long odds. After a disappointing start, in which Western Kentucky dropped three of its first five games, Coach Jack Harbaugh rallied the Hilltoppers to victories in their last six regular season games. This late-season charge helped Western Kentucky secure one of the final spots in the Division I-AA playoffs. Once in the NCAA tournament, Western was faced with a daunting path to the championship which required them to defeat each of the top three ranked teams on consecutive weekends. However, Western Kentucky rose to the challenge and even exacted a measure of revenge by defeating Western Illinois and McNeese State, two of the teams that had previously defeated the Hilltoppers during the regular season. With its 34 to 14 victory over McNeese State on December 20, 2002, Western Kentucky University captured the first NCAA football championship in the program's proud eighty-nine year history.

I want to congratulate the Hilltopper football team, head Coach Jack Harbaugh, Athletic Director Dr. Wood Selig, and President Gary Ransdell on capturing the 2002 Division I-AA national championship and thank them for the outstanding manner in which they represented Western Kentucky University and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 16) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 16

Whereas on December 20, 2002, the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers from Bowling Green, Kentucky, won the 2002 NCAA Division I-AA Collegiate Football Championship;

Whereas this championship is Western Kentucky University's first NCAA Football Championship since its football program began in 1913;

Whereas the Hilltoppers had an impressive and overall record of 12 wins and 3 losses, including 10 consecutive wins and winning the championship game;

Whereas the Hilltoppers showed tremendous dedication to each other, appreciation to their fans, sportsmanship to their opponents, and respect for the game of football throughout their 2002 season;

Whereas Western Kentucky University was represented with integrity and principled

leadership under the direction of its head coach Jack Harbaugh, athletic director Dr. Wood Selig, and president Dr. Gary A. Ransdell; and

Whereas on December 20, 2002, the 15th ranked Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers faced the number 1 ranked McNeese State University Cowboys for the 2002 NCAA Division I-AA Football Championship in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and came away victorious by a score of 34 to 14: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the Western Kentucky University football team from Bowling Green, Kentucky, for winning the 2002 NCAA Division I-AA Football Championship.

EXTENDING THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 11, which is being held at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 11) to extend the national flood insurance program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 11) was read a third time and passed.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.J. RES. 2

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that H.J. Res. 2 is at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 2) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 16

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 16 is at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 16) to authorize salary adjustments for Justices and judges of the United States for fiscal year 2003.